

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



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August 26, 2011

Dear Residents,

Based on the forecast track of Hurricane Irene, torrential rains and dangerous wind conditions are expected to overspread our region Saturday night and continue through Sunday. Rainfall amounts of 5 to 12 inches are expected with locally higher amounts possible from Saturday night through Sunday evening. The exact track of Irene will determine where the heaviest axis of rain sets up. Please be advised that significant flood potential exists area wide. Neighborhoods that typically are prone to flooding should expect rising water and potentially dangerous conditions overnight on Saturday and through Sunday.

PLEASE TAKE EVERY NECESSARY PRECAUTION TO SECURE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUR FAMILY.

Chief Christopher Kelley has provided the following important guideline from the Westwood Fire Department with recommendations for residents to follow in the event they have to evacuate their home due to a flood emergency:

- 1.) Turn off your natural gas line at the main. If you cannot find the main or do not know how to turn it off, it is recommended that you turn off the gas line to each individual gas fed appliance, especially those in lower flood prone areas of your home. When you return home it is important that you contact your utility provider to turn your gas and/or electricity back on in a safe manner.
- 2.) Turn off your electrical service at the main. Some residents may opt not to do this so their sump pump has a continuous power supply. Please keep in mind that if you choose not to turn off the electricity for that reason, it is possible that the pump will not be able to keep up with the influx of water. In such cases, your home runs the risk of experiencing an electrical emergency if the flood waters reach a dangerous level.
- 3.) Residents are strongly advised to call the Westwood Fire Headquarters at (201)664-0526 where we will keep a master list of all residents who VOLUNTARILY advise us of their evacuation. This knowledge will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used to facilitate the Fire Department's emergency operations. It is important for our emergency services personnel to know if a home may be occupied should mandatory evacuation

procedures be enacted. If you choose to notify us of your evacuation, please provide: the address you are evacuating from, the shelter you will be staying at (if applicable), a phone number you can be reached at, and any other information you may feel the Fire Department would find useful.

4.) It is important that you notify us immediately if you or a member of your household has any special needs, or relies on electrically operated medical devices, specialized medical equipment, medications, or other health related information.

* Please Note: Fire Department Headquarters phone is not manned 24/7 however it will be monitored. If a resident calls to provide their evacuation info and nobody answers, please leave all information on the voicemail.

Should mandatory evacuation procedures be implemented please use good sense and evacuate when the order is given, before it is too late. Emergency personnel will come get you if you are in need of assistance. However, please keep in mind that emergency personnel risk their lives to save yours and will do everything possible within the scope of their training and ability. Should the severity of a storm surpass the ability and/or resources available to rescue personnel, their lives will not be placed in danger beyond that which is reasonable and justifiable. It is recommended that you evacuate early so difficult, potentially life-threatening decisions can be avoided. It will provide for a safer, low-risk, flood emergency for everyone involved.

We will continue to update our website and send information via every available means of communication.

Sincerely,
Borough of Westwood


John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor